

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-02  
INR-10 L-03 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 /081 W  
-----119535 071035Z /11

O 070912Z AUG 78 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1994

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS PRETORIA 4514

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TAGS: PDEV, WA

SUBJECT: MASS TURNOUT FOR AHTISAARI

1. AHTISAARI AND HIS PARTY WERE GREETED IN WINDHOEK, SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, BY A MULTIRACIAL CROWD WHICH POLICE REPORTEDLY ESTIMATED AT 12,000. ACCORDING TO MEDIA REPORTS, THE DEMONSTRATIONS MOSTLY BY SWAPO AND DTA SUPPORTERS, WERE GOOD HUMORED AND THERE WAS SOMETHING OF A CARNIVAL ATMOSPHERE TO THE OCCASION.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, AHTISAARI IN A BRIEF PREPARED STATEMENT SAID THE ARRIVAL OF THE MISSION WAS A "MOMENTUS OCCASION FOR THE UNITED NATIONS, THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, AND THE PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA AS A WHOLE."  
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AFTER OUTLINING THE BACKGROUND TO HIS MISSION, HE SAID, "WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE MANDATE ENTRUSTED TO ME BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL, I SHALL ESTABLISH CONTACT WITHIN NAMIBIA WITH ALL THE PARTIES DIRECTLY CONCERNED." AHTISAARI REPORTEDLY ADDED, "IT IS GENERALLY APPRECIATED THAT THE TASK OF THE MISSION IS NOT GOING TO BE AN EASY ONE, AND I HAVE NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT THE MANIFOLD COMPLEXITIES

AND SENSITIVITIES INVOLVED IN AN EXERCISE OF THIS NATURE.  
FOR OUR JOINT EFFORTS IN THIS EXERCISE  
TO SUCCEED AND TO ASSIST THE MISSION TO DISCHARGE THE  
RESPONSIBILITY ENTRUSTED TO IT, WE WILL NEED THE GOOD WILL  
AND COOPERATION OF ALL CONCERNED. TO THIS END I  
SHOULD LIKE TO MAKE A GENERAL APPEAL TO ALL INVOLVED  
TO JOINING A SUSTAINED CONCERTED EFFORT TO INSURE THAT THE  
ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA FOR SELF DETERMINATION  
AND INDEPENDENCE ARE HONORED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. FOR MY  
OWN PART, I WOULD LIKE TO ASSURE ALL THE PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA  
THAT THE MISSION WILL DISCHARGE FAITHFULLY THE TASK  
ENTRUSTED TO IT."

3. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, AHTISAARI "KEPT HIS COOL"  
IN THE FACE OF A BARRAGE OF QUESTIONS FROM A PHALANX OF LOCAL  
AND OVERSEAS NEWSMEN,. DURING THE QUESTION PERIOD,  
AHTISAARI REPORTEDLY SAID "I WOULD SAY THAT IF ALL OF US  
DO REALIZE THAT WE ARE ENTERING A NEW ERA, AND I AND  
MY COLLEAGUES DEFINITELY DO, THERE IS NO WAY FOR US TO SUCCEED.##  
IF ALL OF US ARE LOOKING TO THE PAST AND MAINTAINING  
OUR SUSPICIONS AND DOUBTS, NOT RECOGNIZING  
THAT WE ARE ENTERING AN ENTIRELY NEW ERA, WE HAVE NO  
WAY OF SUCCEEDING. I HOPE ALL OF YOU WILL SHARE THAT SAME  
ATTITUDE WITH ME. IT IS THE ONLY WAY WE CAN  
SUCCEED IN THIS EXERCISE."

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4. IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS, AHTISAARI SAID THAT HE  
INITIALLY PLANNED TO STAY A FEW DAYS IN WINDHOEK TO GET  
QCQUAINTED WITH HIS COUNTERPART AND THE ADMINISTRATION.  
HE SAID HE HOPED TO MEET REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL THE POLITICAL  
PARTIES AND DECLINED TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ON THE STATUS OF  
WALVIS BAY WHICH HE SAID WAS NOT PART OF HIS MANDATE.

5. ON THE QUSTION OF THE NUMBER OF UN TROOPS TO BE STATIONED  
IN NAMIBIA, HE SAID THIS WOULD BE ONE OF THE THINGS WHICH  
THE SECRETARY GENERAL WOULD DEAL WITH IN HIS REPORT. ON HIS  
ATTITUDE TOWARD THE VOTER REGISTRATION CAMPAIGN, AHTISAARI  
WAS QUOTED AS SAYING: "THIS IS ONE OF THE ISSUES, WE  
HAVE TO REVIEW WHAT HAS BEEN DONE AND TO DISCUSS WITH JUSTICE  
STEYN NOT ONLY THE REGISTRATOION BUT THE WHOLE PROCESS CONCERNING  
ELECTIONS. WE HAVE TO LOOK AT THE PART OF THE ELECTION  
PROCESS IN THE LIGHT OF THE PROPOSALS.  
I AM GOING TO COOPERATE WITH ALL PARTIES CONCERNED. THE  
PROPOSALS DO FORESEE THAT ALL POLITICAL PARTIES MAY  
PARTICIPATE ON AN EQUAL FOOTING AND OUR JOB IS TO SEE  
THAT IT IS A FAIR PROCESS." AHTISAARI REPORTEDLY SAID HE DID  
NOT ENVISAGE ANY MEETING WITH SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT  
OFFICIALS IN PRETORIA AT THIS MOMENT. HW WOULD NOT BE DRAWN

ON THE REPORTED REMARKS BY SAM NUJOMA THAT HIS POWERS SHOULD EXCEED THOSE OF THE AG.

AHTISAARI REFERRED HIS QUESTIONER TO THE PROPOSALS AND ON NUJOMA'S CALL WOULD ONLY COMMENT "I HAVE TAKEN NOTE OF HIS STATEMENT."

6. ASKED HOW HE WOULD BE ABLE TO BRING ABOUT A CEASEFIRE, AHTISAARI REPORTEDLY SAID, "I ASSUME THAT WHEN THE SECURITY COUNCIL APPROVES THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL, THE DATE FOR A CEASEFIRE HAS TO BE AGREED AT THE PARTICULAR MOMENT."

7. ALTHOUGH A SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT AIRCRAFT WAS STANDING BY AT J.G. STRIJDOM AIRPORT TO FLY AHTISSAARI TO THE EROS SUBURBAN AIRPORT, AHTISAARI CHOSE TO DRIVE THE 45 KM.  
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TO WINDHOEK. THE UN TEAM IS STAYING AT THE SAFARI HOTEL, WHICH IS LOCATED JUST OUTSIDE THE GATES OF EROS AIRPORT.  
EDMONDSON

NOTE BY OC/T: ##SENTENCE AS RECEIVED.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TAGS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:**  
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